

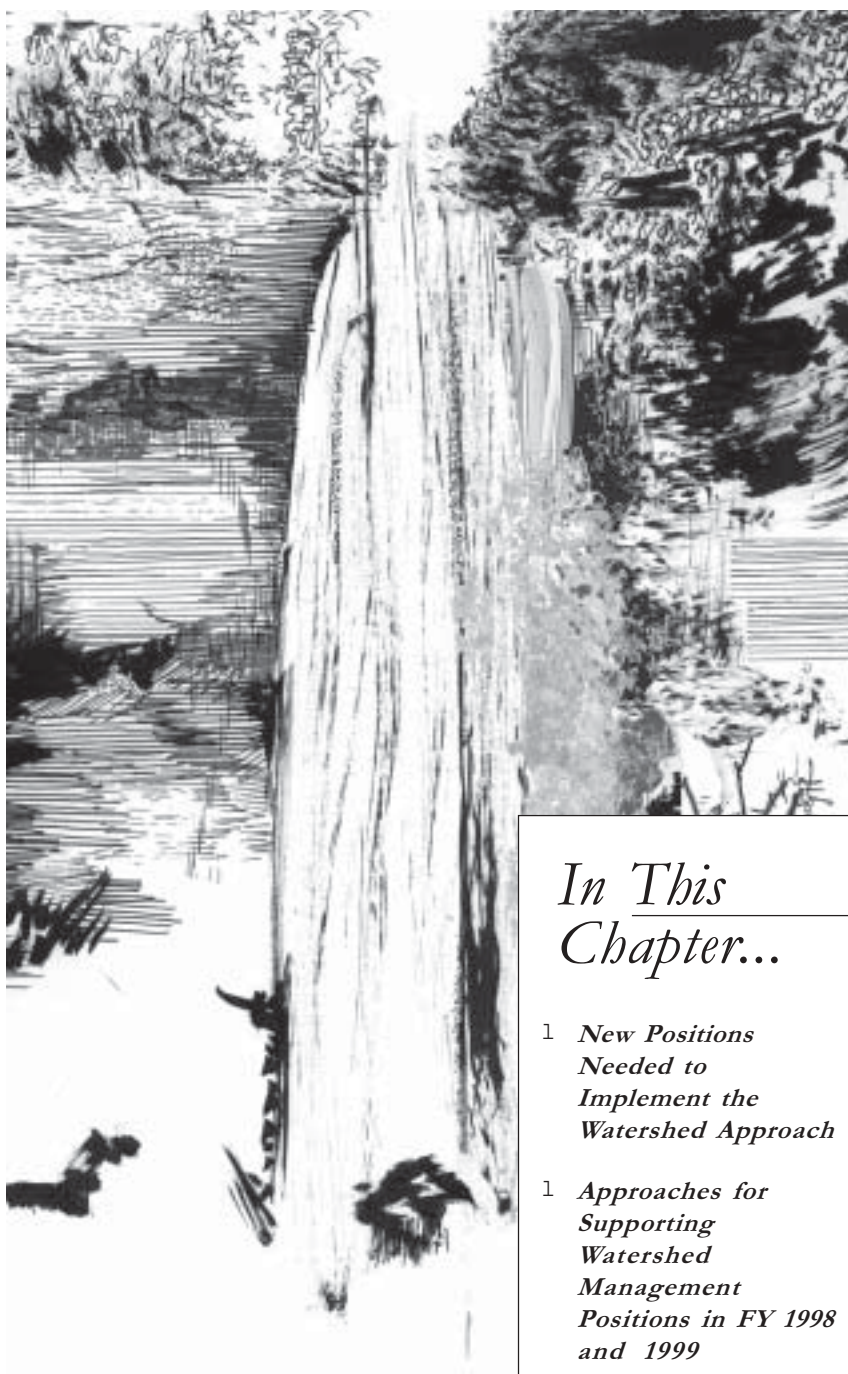
# Resource Needs

## **New Positions Needed to Implement the Watershed Approach**

The partner organizations that have come together to develop this Framework Document are already conducting many of the activities needed to successfully implement a watershed management approach in Kentucky. Nonetheless, the Kentucky Watershed Framework Development Workgroup identified the need for ongoing coordination of these activities to ensure that basin management cycle tasks are completed and the goals and objectives of this Framework are met. The Workgroup concluded that these coordination functions can be best implemented through the creation of several new positions.

### **Basin Coordinators**

A Basin Coordinator will be assigned to each basin management unit to coordinate and facilitate the activities of the River Basin Team members (see Chapters 2 and 3). For the Kentucky River Basin, no additional funding is anticipated to support the Coordinator position. As a result, the Coordinator responsibilities will be shared between the Kentucky River Authority and the Kentucky Division of Water. For other basin management units, the Coordinator may be provided by one program or funded jointly by the members of each River Basin Team in the basin management unit.



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*Initially, Basin and Public Information Coordinator responsibilities for the Kentucky River Basin will be shared between the Kentucky River Authority and the Kentucky DOW.*

*Coordinators for other basin management units may be provided by a program or funded jointly by River Basin Team members.*

*A Funding Subcommittee reported that new funds to support Coordinator positions are unlikely in the next budgeting cycle.*

*However, partner agencies can identify and reallocate appropriations to support Coordinator positions.*

*The Steering Committee, Framework partners, and Partner Network members can support requests to the legislature for new positions or expanded agency staffing caps.*

## **Public Information Coordinator**

The Kentucky Watershed Framework Development Workgroup also endorsed the need for a Public Information Coordinator to maintain the Partner Network and lead public outreach, education, and communication activities (see Chapters 2 and 3). As for the Kentucky River Basin Public Information Coordinator, no additional funds are currently available to support this position. As a result, the Watershed Framework Development Workgroup initially considered delegating these responsibilities to the Kentucky Environmental Education Council. Future funding will be sought to create a new position located within the Council.

## **Approaches for Supporting Watershed Management Positions in FY 1998 and 1999**

The Kentucky Watershed Framework Development Workgroup convened a Funding Subcommittee in February 1997 to discuss options for supporting the Basin and Public Information Coordinator positions in the future. The Funding Subcommittee included representatives from the Governor's office, legislators, state program staff involved in budgeting and grants administration, and others with experience raising and administering grants and other discretionary monies. The Subcommittee was briefed on the watershed management approach and the need to support Basin Coordinator and Public Information Coordinator positions. The Funding Subcommittee reached the following conclusions:

- (1) New funds will not likely be available to support the Coordinator positions in the next budgeting cycle.
- (2) No legislative action would be needed for the partner agencies to identify and reallocate appropriations to support the positions.
- (3) If existing funds are shared among agencies, memoranda of agreement (MOAs) should be used to provide accountability for the manner in which the funds are used.

As a result, the Kentucky River Basin Coordinator and Public Information Coordinator positions will be supported by the Kentucky River Authority and DOW using existing appropriations.

## **Options for Supporting Future Watershed Management Positions**

In future budgeting cycles, additional state funds might become available to support the Basin and Public Information Coordinator positions. To best support requests for new funds, the Steering Committee should draft a joint statement for the legislature supporting the positions. This statement could also be supported by other organizations and members of the Partner Network. Even if new funds do not become available, a joint request would bolster the argument for expanding corresponding agency staffing caps to allow new Basin and Public Information Coordinator positions to be established under current funding levels.